

RICHARD HUDSON
8TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Chairman Ken Calvert
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Betty McCollum
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

In response to the Subcommittee's recent "Members' Day" hearing, I am writing to advocate on behalf of our U.S. National Forests and their upkeep as you draft the FY18 Interior Appropriations Act.

I would like to request that robust funding be included in this year's Interior Appropriations bill for Capital Improvement and Maintenance for our U.S. Forest Service. This program provides funding to pave our National Forest roads, such as those within the Uwharrie National Forest in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Each year, the U.S. Forest Service is given funding to maintain roadways across our nation. While they do their best to sustain roadways and trail access points, they can only do so much with what they have been given. These roadways are an integral part of ensuring critical public access to our U.S. Forest lands.

Unfortunately, many of our national forest roadways have become severely eroded from travel, age and the elements. The erosion has created problems for those who visit the Uwharrie National Forest, as well as those who access these roads to travel to and from their homes. First responders have also not been able to reach residents in emergencies due to road conditions in recent years, causing major public health concerns among people who live along these roads. This is completely unacceptable.

It is in the best interest of our communities that these valuable resources be accessible for both the tourism and commerce they bring to the forests, as well as for the safety of those who utilize the roads on a regular basis. These are some of our country's natural treasures and I am committed to working to see these national forests thrive.

Sincerely,



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress